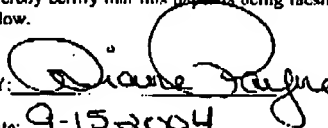


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BY:   
Date: 9-15-2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of:  
MEULMAN, Dirk, et al.

Serial Number: 09/380,695

Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: March 29, 2002

Examiner: Wang, S.

For: USE OF A 7 $\alpha$ -METHYL-17 $\alpha$ -ETHYNYL-ESTRANE DERIVATIVE FOR  
THE TREATMENT OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Arlington, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF APRIL 15, 2004****I. Introduction**

Applicants respectfully respond to the Office Action of April 15, 2004  
as follows: Please charge deposit account 02-2334 for any required fee and to  
credit any credits.